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SUBJECT: H1N1 Update: 132,965 Confirmed Cases, 61
H1N1 Deaths

REF A: Berlin 1451 and previous

11. (U) SUMMARY: From November 8-20, the number of confirmed H1N1 infections in Germany rose by 33,787 cases to a total of 132,965 cases. The number of H1N1 deaths in Germany increased to sixty-one. END SUMMARY

12. (U) At its weekly press briefing on November 30, the National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) confirmed a total of 33,787 new laboratory H1N1 cases in Germany from November 8 to November 20, increasing the total number of H1N1 cases to 132,965 (Comment: As of November 8, non-laboratory cases are no longer included in RKI's reporting. End Comment) Bavaria remains the German state with the highest number of confirmed virus cases, with a total of 30,120, followed by Nord Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) (26,431) and Baden-Wuerttemberg (19,233).

German H1N1 Deaths Increase

13. (U) As of November 30, RKI has confirmed the deaths of sixty-one patients due to H1N1. The deaths are distributed among the German states as follows: NRW (21), Bavaria (13), Lower-Saxony (6), Hesse (4), Baden-Wuerttemberg (3), Rhineland-Palatinate (3), Thuringia (2), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (2), Berlin (2), Bremen (1), Brandenburg (1), Saarland (1), Schleswig-Holstein (1) and Saxony (1). In the majority of cases, the patients had underlying health conditions and were considered to be "risk patients". We are aware of eight cases (2 NRW, 2 Lower Saxony, 1 Bavaria, 1 Hesse, 1 Rhineland-Palatinate, 1 Saxony) in which patients reportedly had no underlying health conditions.

First Wave of H1N1 passed?

14. (U) According to media reports, the number of people with acute respiratory infections due to H1N1 in Bavaria has decreased, indicating that the situation is slightly improving. However, given the increased number of infections throughout Germany, RKI health experts warn that it is too early to call this the end of the first wave of flu. The state health ministers are expected to meet on December 1 to discuss how urgently they should recommend vaccination for Germans who do not belong to one of the three risk groups - health care workers, people with underlying health conditions, and pregnant women - that were already advised to get the H1N1 vaccination.

MURPHY